(GDP) at current prices of the country was 26.3 per cent during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997—2002). As per the advance estimates of national income released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors is 23.1 per cent in the total GDP during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed an increase in the Central Plan outlay in respect of agriculture and allied sectors from Rs.3,219 crore in 2002-03(RE) to Rs. 3,866 crore in 2003-04.

Non plan expenditure

4714. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spend on non plan expenditure during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenditure on this head is gradually increasing;

(c) if so, the details of the increase during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that revenue on capital side is also being used to finance non plan expenditure; and

(e) what steps are being taken to minimise non plan expenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The accounts for April 2003 of the current financial year will be finalized only by 31st May, 2003. However, total amount spent on non-plan expenditure during the financial year 2002-03 (upto February 2003) is Rs. 2,39,532 crores. The figures are provisional and unaudited;

(b) Yes, Sir. The expenditure on this head is gradually increasing as per trends of past years.

(c) Details are as under:

(Rs.in crores)

Year	Actuals	Increase over last year
1999-2000	2,21,902	9,354
2000-2001	2,42,942	21,040
2001-2002	2,61,259	18,317

(d) Given the large revenue deficit that the Government is faced with to the tune of Rs. 1,12,292 crore for 2003-2004 (BE), it follows that revenue expenditure of the said magnitude is being met from capital receipts.

(e) It is Governments constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments. These measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restriction on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, restriction on STD/ISD facility, restriction on number of free calls on official residential telephones, etc.

Pending applications in National Committee under Section 35AC

4715. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases for Income Tax Exemption under Section 35AC is pending with the National Committee for more than six to eight months;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending State-wise and the period of pendency from the date of submission of the cases; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the applications in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list containing State-wise pendency of such cases and the period of their pendency is enclosed in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Most of the cases are pending for want of requisite details/clarification from the institutions. A few cases are also pending for the reason that the National Committee has decided to verify the activities of the institutions through inspection by its Members.

The Committee is now meeting on a regular basis almost every month to decide upon pending applications.

The Committee has decided to clear applications within three months from the date the institution furnishes necessary information/documents to the satisfaction of the committee or from the date of inspection report, wherever applicable.